

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 STR-08

TAR-02 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 SS-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD

SUBJECT: 1974 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

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1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE BY
US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AT 10:00 AM EST, DECEMBER 21,
1973. BEGIN TEXT:

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE EARL L. BUTZ ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT
MEAT IMPORT QUOTAS, WHICH THE PRESIDENT SUSPENDED DURING
THE LAST HALF OF 1972 AND FOR ALL OF 1973, WILL CONTINUE
TO BE SUSPENDED FOR 1974. THIS APPLIES TO FRESH, FROZEN
AND CHILLED BEEF, VEAL, MUTTON AND GOAT MEAT, SUBJECT TO
THE 1964 MEAT IMPORT LAW.

THESE MEATS WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE FREELY INTO THE U.S.
WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS EXCEPT FOR MEETING THE USUAL
INSPECTION AND HEALTH STANDARDS AND TARIFF REGULATIONS.

THE SECRETARY STATED THAT THIS SUSPENSION OF QUOTAS IS
EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH 1974. HOWEVER, AS REQUIRED
BY LAW, THE SECRETARY WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION EVERY
THREE MONTHS. SHOULD MARKETING CONDITIONS CHANGE
SUBSTANTIALLY, THE SUSPENSION OF QUOTAS WILL BE
RECONSIDERED.

THE SECRETARY SAID THAT RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN THE U.S.
DECLINED IN 1972-1973 AT A TIME OF VIGOROUS GROWTH IN
EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME. THIS LED TO HIGHER CONSUMER MEAT
PRICES. THE PRESIDENT SUSPENDED MEAT QUOTAS IN JUNE 1972
TO MODERATE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES.

CATTLEMEN HAVE RESPONDED TO THE HIGHER PRICE LEVEL OF THE
LAST TWO YEARS BY INCREASING THEIR BREEDING HERDS. THUS,
THERE ARE MORE CATTLE TO COME TO MARKET IN THE MONTHS
AND YEARS AHEAD. CONSUMER BEEF PRICES HAVE STABILIZED
SINCE THE END OF SUMMER, AND FARM BEEF PRICES HAVE
DROPPED SHARPLY FROM SUMMER LEVELS. HOWEVER, SUPPLIES OF
BEEF ARE EXPECTED TO BE TIGHT THROUGH THE WINTER, WITH
LARGER SUPPLIES EXPECTED LATER IN 1974. END TEXT.

2. POSTS SHOULD INFORM APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS BUT REQUEST THEY MAKE NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
PRIOR TO USDA'S RELEASE.
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3. FOR CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, AND DUBLIN: IN ACCORDANCE
WITH PAST PROCEDURES, WE HAVE INFORMED LOCAL EMBASSIES;
YOU MAY STILL WISH CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO
INSURE THEY INFORMED. RUSH

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